Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01060 152232Z

66-60
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-01 SCA-01 ABF-01 OC-05 CCO-00 MMO-01

SY-05 VO-03 SS-15 SP-02 A-01 /048 W
---------- 020535
P 152156Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9134

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 1060

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AFSP, CA
SUBJ: ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR CANADIAN POSTS

1. GREATLY APPRECIATE THE FIRST-RATE SUPPORT FURNISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT WHICH HAS MARKEDLY IMPROVED THE EFFICIENCY OF CANADIAN POSTS. AUGMENTATION OF OUR S&E AND REPRESENTATION ALLOTMENTS; ADDED LOCAL CONSULAR STAFF AT VANCOUVER AND TORONTO; AUTHORITY TO LEASE NEW OFFICE SPACE HALIFAX AND MARINE QUARTERS OTTAWA; ADDITIONAL CONSULAR OFFICER EACH AT MONTREAL AND TORONTO; DECISION TO PROVIDE SECURE PHONE AND ACR ARE ALL SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONS TO OUR CAPABILITY.

2. AFTER HAVING VISITED OUR CONSULATES GENERAL AT MONTREAL, TORONTO, CALGARY AND VANCOUVER, AND REVIEWED COUNTRYWIDE PRIORITIES, SOME ADDITIONAL STAFFING AND EQUIPMENT ARE IN MY JUDGMENT URGENT. OTHER OUTSTANDING REQUESTS CAN, I BELIEVE, BE DEFERRED.

3. NEEDED PERSONNAL INCREASES ARE:

A) 1) THE U.S. CONSULAR STAFF AT VANCOUVER HAS REMAINED AT THREE OFFICERS SINCE 1962 WHILE THE WORKLOAD HAS GREATLY INCREASED SINCE THAT TIME. THEREFORE, AN ADDITIONAL CONSULAR OFFICER AT VANCOUVER IS NEEDED TO COPE WITH THE PROBLEM OF A GREATLY INCREASED WORKLOAD
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 01060 152232Z

OVER THE PAST YEAR, IN VISA AND PASSPORT CASES

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

PARTICULARLY, AND TO LIQUIDATE CURRENT BACKLOGS AND DELAYS. A NAME CHECK COMPUTER CAPABILITY (SEE PARA (5) BELOW) WOULD ALSO SERVE TO SUBSTANTIALLY RELIEVE THE CURRENT PROBLEMS IN THIS AREA.

2) AT PRESENT DEA MANS THE ONLY SOPHISTICATED CLASSIFIED ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY AT THE POST. THE INCREASED WORKLOAD AND ADVENT OF A BPAO AT POST INDICATES THE TIME HAS COME TO SET UP A STATE SECURE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY TO SERVE OUR NEEDS AS WELL AS THOSE OF OTHER USG AGENCIES IN VANCOUVER INCLUDING DEA. IDEALLY THIS CAN BE DONE BY STATIONING A STATE COMMUNICATOR AT THE POST WITH THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT. AS AN EXPEDIENT AN ALTERNATIVE COULD BE TO TRAIN OUR STATE SECRETARY IN COMMUNICATIONS WORK EITHER SHARING THE DEA EQUIPMENT OR THROUGH TRANSFER OF THE DEA EQUIPMENT TO STATE AND UTILIZING THE DEA AMERICAN SECRETARY AS BACK-UP COMMUNICATOR OR FOR THE HANDLING OF THEIR TRAFFIC ONLY. THIS SOLUTION, OF COURSE, WOULD DEPEND ON DEA'S AGREEMENT TO THE USE OF THEIR CIRCUITS BY OUR COMMUNICATOR. OTHERWISE, I WOULD WISH TO MAINTAIN THE REQUIREMENT FOR SECURE COMMUNICATIONS.

B) A U.S. SECRETARY/COMMUNICATOR POSITION FOR QUEBEC. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT REQUIREMENT NOW THAT THERE IS A REAL POSSIBILITY OF SEPARATISTS COMING TO POWER THERE; WE NEED QUICK, SECURE COMMUNICATION WITH OUR CG THERE AND NEED TO FREE HIM FROM CLASSIFIED SECRETARIAL WORK. AS YOU KNOW HE NOW MUST GO TO MONTREAL TO HANDLE ANY SUBSTANTIAL CLASSIFIED TRAFFIC.

C) TWO ADDITIONAL CHAUFFEUR/MESSENGER POSITION FOR OTTAWA, ONE TO BE ASSIGNED TO DCM VEHICLE AND THE OTHER TO OUR REQUESTED ADDITIONAL TO EMBASSY'S INADEQUATE VEHICLE FLEET ARE IMPORTANT. THE DCM AT A CLASS 1 POST SIMPLY CANNOT OPERATE AS ACTIVELY OR EFFICIENTLY AS HE SHOULD WITHOUT A DRIVER. MOREOVER, WE ARE GETTING A LARGE UPTURN IN VISITORS, WHICH CORRESPONDS TO MORE ACTIVE GENERAL POLICY TOWARDS CANADA, AND CANNOT MEET OR SERVICE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 OTTAWA 01060 152232Z

THEM. ALREADY ONE SURVEY SHOWS THAT AN AVERAGE OF 21 OFFICIAL TRIPS WOTHIN THE CITY ARE MADE EACH WEEK BY OFFICER UTILIZING POV'S OR COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION DUE TO UNAVAILABILITY OF A GOV. MANY OF THESE TRIPS ARE RELATED TO OFFICIAL VISITS.

D) MARINE SECURITY GUARD DETACHMENTS FOR MONTREAL AND TORONTO AS WELL AS A SEABEE FOR OTTAWA TO SERVICE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

OUR NINE CANADIAN POSTS. UNDERSTAND THESE REQUESTS ARE NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION. HOPEFULLY THEY CAN BE FAVORABLY RESOLVED AND IMPLEMENTED PRIOR TO THE ADVENT OF THE OLYMPICS IN JULY.

4. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE TWO CHAUFFEURS/MESSENGERS, ALL OF THE ABOVE HAVE ALREADY BEEN REQUESTED. ALL OTHER PERSONNEL REQUESTS CAN, IN MY JUDGMENT, BE DEFERRED.

5. NEEDED ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT CONSISTS OF (A) NIV NAME CHECK COMPUTER CAPABILITY FOR VANCOUVER. PART OF THE REASON THAT VANCOUVER IS FALLING BEHIND IN CONSULAR WORK IS THE NON-AVAILABILITY OF THIS FACILITY; AND (B) ONE VEHICLE FOR OTTAWA. AS NOTED ABOVE, WE NOW RELY HEAVILY ON POV'S FOR OFFICIAL BUSINESS, AND CAN'T PROPERLY SERVICE OFFICIAL VISITORS.

6. WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS ABOVE PRIORITIES DURING MEETING IN EUR/EX MARCH 16-17.
ENDERS

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OTTAWA01060
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760097-0868
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760360/aaaacawc.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <02 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR CANADIAN POSTS
TAGS: AFSP, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006